Jammu and Kashmir is under execution on turnkey basis through a Swedish-UK Consortium. The first unit is expected to be commissioned by December, 1996 and the complete project by May, 1997.

(b) The project had been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 1632.62 crores in June, 1989. The project at October, 1994 price level is estimated to Cost Rs. 3,058 crores.

(c) The project extends over a distance of 33 KM along the National Highway 1A.

(d) One correspondent of UNI had visited the project in March, 1995.

(e) The progress of work is occasionally affected due to stoppage of traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar highway on account of land-slides, snowfall etc. but the work at site including the underground works is proceeding ahead.

(f) and (g) The contract for execution of the project on turnkey basis has been awarded by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) to a Swedish-UK Consortium of firms. Working personnel at the project, whether expatriates or Indian other than the NHPC Staff, are in the employment of the consortium who are committed to execute the project in accordance with the contract and it is for the management of the consortium to consider about the compensation and rewards, if any, after successful completion of work.

Criteria for films telecast on Doordarshan

*318. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the broad outlines of the criteria adopted for the selection of Indian and foreign films for telecasting over the Doordarshan;

(b) whether the cultural and traditional values of our society are kept in view while selecting films for exhibition over the Doordarshan; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, particularly because the mere display of sex and violence in the films being exhibited at present is bringing about moral degradation of our younger generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Doordarshan endeavours to telecast only those films which are suitable for family viewing, possess thematic, cisematic and entertainment value. Only films which have been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification are considered for telecast. All films are previewed before telecast by a screening committee comprising non-official members.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

International Hotel Tie up with ITDC managed Hotels

*319. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 202 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th March, 1995 and state:

(a) the particulars of the bids received from various international hotel chains in the tender floated by the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) for induction of marketing expertise and management of technical services in the groups' elite hotels and whose bid had been accepted by the ITDC and on what terms and conditions.

(b) whether the ITC Group has bought the entire lot of ITDC share through one of its associated companies and thus acquired 10 per cent of ITDC shares that was offered in the last round of disinvestment recently; and

(c) if so, its impact on the working of ITDC' elite hotels, when the ITC group is its competitor in hotel business in some of the principal cities in the counrty and the long-term advantage which the ITC Hotels will derive from this acquisition of ITDC share-holdings?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) A total number of ten parties have submitted their bids for marketing and management tie-up for six ELITE hotels of ITDC. Since, the bids have not yet been finalised, it would not be in the business interest of ITDC to disclose the particulars of the bids.

(b) Govt. is not aware as to whether any of the successful bidders belong to the ITC group.

(c) The Govt. would still be holding 90 per cent of the shares of ITDC and thus would have full management control. In view of reply to part (b) above, the question of ITC Hotels deriving any advantage does not arise.

Direct Flight from Ahmedabad to Nairobi

*320. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Government of Gujarat to start a direct flight from Ahmedabad to Nairobi and Capetown via Johannesburg;

(b) if so, what is the decision on the same;

(c) whether it is possible that Delhi-Ahmedabad-Muscat flights started recently by Indian Airlines, can be conveniently extended upto Nairobi;

(d) if so, the action proposed in the matter; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Proposals have been received from the Government of Gparat for starting direct flights from Ahmedabad to Niarobi and Johannesburg.

(b) Due to inadequate frame potential, the proposed services are not considered economically viable at present.

(c) to (e) The Dalhi-Ahmedabad-Muscat route is presently operated by Indian Airlines with A 320 aircraft which does not have the required range to undertake an economically viable flight upto Nairobi. Indian Airlines is also not a designated carrier under the India-Kenya bilateral air services agreement.

Free passes provided by Air India and Indian Airlines

3235. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of free passes provided by Air India and Indian Airlines to persons other than employees-ex-employees or their dependents for the year 1992-93 with month-wise break-up;

(b) the notional cost of such passes; and

(c) the names and addresses of the beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHUGHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The number of complimentary passes/tickets issued during 1992-93 by Air India and Indian Airlines to commercial contacts for business promotion under the discretionary powers of the Managing Directors and other specified officers was 529 and 263 respectively. Monthwise breakup is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.